

**Proposed Dorset
Waste Sites –
Loudsmill
(WP11)**

Heritage Assessment

November 2017






Proposed Dorset Waste Sites – Loudsmill (WP11)

for

C1 project code: C1/DBA/17/DMW

Dorset County Council

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Date	22/11/17
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Signed	
Date	23/11/17
Issue	01

PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	WP11
Planning Application ref.	N/A
Civil parish and District	Dorchester, West Dorset District Council
National Grid Reference	centred on SY 71371 90101
Site Area	c. 0.91ha (of 3.44ha)
Current Use	Part of existing Site

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Summary

Context One Heritage and Archaeology (C1) carried out a Heritage Assessment for a proposed waste handling site, Loudsmill Dorchester, West Dorset. This forms part a review of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Plan (2006). The work was commissioned by Dorset County Council (DCC).

The Site currently comprises an area of brownfield land situated c. 1.3km north of the centre of Fordington, Dorchester, and is under consideration for inclusion in a Plan for provision of an extension to a household recycling centre. This assessment has indicated that there are no designated or non-designated assets on the Site. However, there are extensive areas of archaeological monuments, features and deposits covering the entire area of the field to the south and south-west of the Site, extending to the west, as well as extensive post-medieval water meadows situated immediately to the north and extending to the east and west of the Site.

The Scheduled Mount Pleasant henge enclosure, its associated archaeological features, and the complex of associated monuments, represents a nationally significant group of prehistoric and later features. In addition to the density of Neolithic and Bronze Age features around the enclosure, Mount Pleasant is part of a wider complex of later Neolithic monuments situated along the Fordington ridge, including a large pit circle seen at Greyhound Yard (Woodward et al 1993), the Flagstones pit enclosure (Smith et al 1997), and contemporary features at Alington Avenue (Davies et al 2002) just to the west of Mount Pleasant. The scale of the henge and the associated structures places it in a class of very large late Neolithic monuments such as Avebury, Durrington Walls, Knowlton Circles, and Marden, underlining its significance as representing an extensive Neolithic ceremonial landscape. This subsequently attracted Bronze Age and later activity to the area. A linear feature associated with the complex extends on its north-eastern side towards the south-eastern corner of the Site, although it had not been identified to the north of the railway line which forms the southern boundary of the Site. There are features and find spots of material immediately to the south of the railway

Consideration of historic maps has shown that the Site has been in agricultural use since at least the beginning of the 19th century, prior to the development of the area as a Sewage Treatment Works. The northern two thirds of the Site was used during the mid-20th century as settling ponds for the works before becoming disused. It is therefore possible that archaeological features and deposits in the northern part of the Site have been impacted by the construction of the overflow areas, but depending on how they were constructed this may have been minimal. As well as the Scheduled Mount Pleasant enclosure and its associated features, there is a Grade I Listed building, Max Gate, home of the Dorset novelist Thomas Hardy, situated c. 800m to the south-west of the Site. The Grade II Listed 79 St Georges Road, an early 19th century cottage is positioned c. 900m to the west of the Sewerage Works and Louds Mill, a Grade II Listed 18th century cloth mill is c. 50m to the north of the north-western corner of the Sewage Works, c. 500m from the Site.

With respect to the potential for buried archaeological features and deposits, further investigation should be carried out once detailed proposals are known in order to determine the nature and extent of deposits and frame a suitable approach to mitigation and the recording of those assets. This may involve excavation of archaeological evaluation trenches; the area is likely to be unsuitable for an archaeological geophysical survey. With respect to the designated assets, it is not possible to establish setting using desk-based sources alone. However, the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure and associated elements which is immediately adjacent to the Site is of the highest significance, as is Max Gate. As such, further examination of any potential effects on these assets might be considered desirable within a full Settings Assessment as part of a planning application in accordance with steps 2-5 of the Historic England guidance on the setting of heritage assets (Historic England 2015). A further assessment could enable a fuller understanding what the impacts might be, how, if harmful, these might be mitigated or what further work needs to be done to maximise enhancement and avoid harm. This might include consideration of the appropriateness of the footprint and elevation of the building; provision of screening to control visual effects and/or light pollution or noise.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage and Archaeology (C1) carried out a Heritage Assessment for a proposed waste handling site, Loudsmill (the 'Site') Dorchester, West Dorset. This forms part a review of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Plan (2006). The work was commissioned by Dorset County Council (DCC).
- 1.2 The Heritage Assessment was preceded by a scoping exercise (referred to as Phase 1) which provided baseline heritage data for twelve sites under consideration. The results were presented as a series of short statements accompanied by summary figures showing the site boundaries and all heritage assets within their environs.
- 1.3 Following this, the Site was selected by DCC as requiring a second stage of examination (Phase 2) based on a predefined brief. The aim of the Assessment is to:
- evaluate the potential level of impact from the proposed allocation on heritage assets and (where applicable) their settings;
 - where impacts are identified, to assess whether these might be sufficiently mitigated so that the level of impact from the plan is acceptable.

The assessment is carried out in proportion to the current stage within the allocation process, namely for review of inclusion within the Plan. As such, this document covers key aspects of Archaeological Desk-based Assessment relevant to the allocation process, but does not constitute a full assessment for planning purposes.

- 1.4 The purpose of an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) is to establish the known or potential cultural heritage resource in a local, regional, national or international context. For the purposes of this report, this specifically includes:
- the identification of site specific statutory and non-statutory cultural heritage assets
 - the identification of published and unpublished archaeological events.
 - the examination of selected cartographic and documentary sources
 - an appraisal of the setting of selected heritage assets with relation to the Site

2. Planning Policy Framework

Statutes

- 2.1 The primary statute for heritage assets in England is the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act, 1979 (as amended). This affords statutory protection to the physical integrity of nationally important assets. For Listed buildings, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 offers legal protection to nationally important buildings. Other heritage assets of national or international significance such as World Heritage Sites (WHS); Conservation Areas (CA); Registered Parks and Gardens; and Registered Battlefield Sites are considered under National Planning guidance or Local Plan policy. Non-designated heritage assets are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes that are similarly recognised in the prevailing national, county and local planning policies. These could include, Sites of Archaeological Importance/Interest and assets identified by the local planning authority (including the local listing).

National Planning Policies

- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework, 2012 includes five paragraphs relating to the assessment of development proposals upon heritage assets:

"128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the

assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance¹. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

132. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

135. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset."

2.3 In order to achieve this, there may be a requirement to carry out one or more studies or investigations such as desk-based assessment, heritage impact assessment, and evaluation through geophysical survey and/or trial trenching. This work is often carried out at the pre-application stage in order that the significance of any heritage assets can be properly understood as early as possible so that the evidence can be used to inform the scope and form of a proposed development.

2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework, 2012 (NPPF) describes the setting of a heritage asset as;

'the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve'.

Setting itself is not a heritage asset or designation in its own right, but its importance lies in the elements it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset to which it relates. NPPF also suggests that;

'Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral'.

2.5 Historic England guidance accepts that;

'many places are within the setting of a heritage asset and are subject to some degree of change over time'.

and that the

'protection of the setting of heritage assets need not prevent change' (Historic England 2015, 2).

This is echoed in Conservation Principles, 2008 (para. 4.1) although it also points out that:

'conservation is the process of managing change to a significant place in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations' (para 4.2)

¹ NPPF defines the significance of a heritage asset as being its value to the present and to future generations because of its heritage interest (Annex 2: Glossary, 56). The strength of this value can be judged on the merits of four criteria; evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal (English Heritage, 2008)

- 2.6 Acknowledging that change to the setting of heritage assets is normal, the key question is whether such changes are regarded as neutral, harmful or beneficial to the significance of the heritage asset (Historic England 2015, 2). Harm arises when change adversely alters an element, or elements, of the setting of an asset which contributes to its significance (*ibid.*). This necessarily will differ between assets of the same type or grade, the location of the asset, and the nature of its setting (*ibid.*, 6). In most instances, an assessment of heritage assets will focus on designated assets although non-designated assets will also be considered where it can be demonstrated that they have equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments and Listed buildings.

Local Planning Policies

- 2.7 Policy ENV4 of the West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan, 2015 includes six points relating to heritage assets and setting:

i) The impact of development on a designated or non-designated heritage asset and its setting must be thoroughly assessed against the significance of the asset. Development should conserve and where appropriate enhance the significance.

ii) Applications affecting the significance of a heritage asset or its setting will be required to provide sufficient information to demonstrate how the proposals would positively contribute to the asset's conservation.

iii) A thorough understanding of the significance of the asset and other appropriate evidence including conservation area character appraisals and management plans should be used to inform development proposals including potential conservation and enhancement measures.

iv) Any harm to the significance of a designated or non-designated heritage asset must be justified. Applications will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal; if it has been demonstrated that all reasonable efforts have been made to sustain the existing use, find new uses, or mitigate the extent of the harm to the significance of the asset, and; if the works proposed are the optimum required to secure the sustainable use of the asset.

v) The desirability of putting heritage assets to an appropriate and viable use that is consistent with their conservation will be taken into account.

vi) Where harm can be justified, appropriate provision will be required to capture and record features, followed by analysis and where appropriate making findings publicly available.

Production of Local Plans

- 2.8 Advice on the treatment of heritage assets in the production of local plans is contained in *The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans (Advice Note 3)* (Historic England 2015). This states that:

'A positive strategy for the historic environment in Local Plans can ensure that site allocations avoid harming the significance of both designated and non-designated heritage assets, including effects on their setting. At the same time, the allocation of sites for development may present opportunities for the historic environment.'

It further states:

'In allocating sites, in order to be found sound, it is important to note that as set out in paragraph 182 of the NPPF the proposals are to be positively prepared; justified; effective and consistent with national policy. It is also important to note various legislative and policy requirements:

- *The Local Plan should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, in which the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets should be considered (NPPF paragraph 126); the associated statutory duty regarding the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a conservation area must be considered in this regard (S72, Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990);*
- *Development will be expected to avoid or minimise conflict between any heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal, taking into account an assessment of its significance (NPPF paragraph 129); conservation and the more important the asset, the greater the weight to the asset's conservation there should be (NPPF paragraph 132);*
- *Local plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development (NPPF, paragraph 151). As such, significant adverse impacts on the three dimensions of sustainable*

development (including heritage and therefore environmental impacts) should be avoided in the first instance. Only where adverse impacts are unavoidable should mitigation or compensation measures be considered (NPPF paragraph 152). Any proposals that would result in harm to heritage assets need to be fully justified and evidenced to ensure they are appropriate, including mitigation or compensation measures.'

3. Methodology

3.1 *The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans (Advice Note 3)* advocates a staged process for the consideration of Sites for inclusion in local plans:

- Stage 1 – **Evidence gathering** (enhancing baseline information e.g. understand the potential impact of site allocations on historic places; study of the significance of heritage assets, including assessment of their setting; assessment to understand heritage impacts in greater detail; or the identification of new heritage assets)
- Stage 2 – **Site Selection** (identify sites which are appropriate for inclusion; provide justification for the omission of sites where there is identified harm; and set out clear criteria for sites that are acceptable in principle)
- Stage 3 – **Site Allocation Policies** (The policy and/or supporting text should include clear references to the historic environment and specific heritage assets where appropriate, and at a level appropriate to the size and complexity of the site)

3.2 The Historic England site selection methodology (Historic England 2015, 5) lays out the following process for carrying out heritage assessments on potential site allocations:

STEP 1: Identify which heritage assets are affected by the potential site allocation:

- Informed by the evidence base, local heritage expertise and, where needed, site surveys
- Buffer zones and set distances can be a useful starting point but may not be appropriate or sufficient in all cases. Heritage assets that lie outside of these areas may also need identifying and careful consideration.

STEP 2: Understand what contribution the site (in its current form) makes to the significance of the heritage asset(s) including:

- Understanding the significance of the heritage assets, in a proportionate manner, including the contribution made by its setting considering its physical surroundings, the experience of the asset and its associations (e.g. cultural or intellectual)
- Understanding the relationship of the site to the heritage asset, which is not solely determined by distance or inter-visibility (for example, the impact of noise, dust or vibration)
- Recognising that additional assessment may be required due to the nature of the heritage assets and the lack of existing information
- For a number of assets, it may be that a site makes very little or no contribution to significance.

STEP 3: Identify what impact the allocation might have on that significance, considering:

- Location and siting of development e.g. proximity, extent, position, topography, relationship, understanding, key views
- Form and appearance of development e.g. prominence, scale and massing, materials, movement

- Other effects of development e.g. noise, odour, vibration, lighting, changes to general character, access and use, landscape, context, permanence, cumulative impact, ownership, viability and communal use
- Secondary effects e.g. increased traffic movement through historic town centres as a result of new development

STEP 4: Consider maximising enhancements and avoiding harm through:

Maximising Enhancement

- Public access and interpretation
- Increasing understanding through research and recording
- Repair/regeneration of heritage assets
- Removal from Heritage at Risk Register
- Better revealing of significance of assets e.g. through introduction of new viewpoints and access routes, use of appropriate materials, public realm improvements, shop front design

Avoiding Harm

- Identifying reasonable alternative sites
- Amendments to site boundary, quantum of development and types of development
- Relocating development within the site
- Identifying design requirements including open space, landscaping, protection of key views, density, layout and heights of buildings
- Addressing infrastructure issues such as traffic management

STEP 5: Determine whether the proposed site allocation is appropriate in light of the NPPF's tests of soundness:

- Positively prepared in terms of meeting objectively assessed development and infrastructure needs where it is reasonable do so, and consistent with achieving sustainable development (including the conservation of the historic environment)
- Justified in terms of any impacts on heritage assets, when considered against reasonable alternative sites and based on proportionate evidence
- Effective in terms of deliverability, so that enhancement is maximised and harm minimised
- Consistent with national policy in the NPPF, including the need to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.

3.3 Phase 1 addressed Step 1 of the process, by identifying the heritage assets which are likely to be affected by the adoption of each of the proposed Sites. This document addresses Step 2 of the process, with brief consideration of elements of Steps 3 to 5 where possible, recognising that additional assessment may be required should the Site proceed to planning application stage and once details of form and appearance of the Site are available for consideration.

3.4 The baseline data assembled in Phase 1 is first subject to more detailed study, with full consideration of heritage resources or, where as yet unclear, what might be present drawing on archaeological context. This facilitates:

- an understanding of the significance of heritage assets, including setting;
- an understanding of the current relationship between the Site and known heritage assets;

- the current contribution of the Site to significance of known heritage assets;
 - the potential impact of the proposals on heritage assets, and where further investigations might be required to establish what these are;
 - where possible, the identification of instances where harm is acceptable/ unacceptable, or where this can be mitigated with broad consideration of how this might be achieved with the purpose of guiding heritage considerations as part of the development process
- 3.5 The archaeological background for each Site and its environs has been drawn primarily from the Dorset County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), online sources and some use of historic maps where necessary to understand historic land use. Information on designated assets have been taken from the register maintained by Historic England (HE).
- 3.6 It was determined that a 500m research buffer from the boundary of the Site would provide sufficient data for the scope of this study. It is considered that this would provide a reasonable indicator of heritage assets that may be affected by direct physical change, allow an appreciation of the historical and archaeological context, and enable reflection on any potential below ground archaeology which may be present on the Site but which is currently unidentified. The research buffer would also identify any critical issues with impacts upon setting, as any heritage assets beyond this range would most likely be too far distant for the Site to be clearly identifiable within the human field of view, although heritage assets just outside this perimeter were examined, especially where they were directly related to assets within the area. This does not account for impacts caused by noise or light pollution, or indeed access roads, however until plans are finalized it is not possible to identify assets that might be affected by any such issues.
- 3.7 Heritage assets within the research buffer are located and enumerated on **Figure 1**, and where discussed in the text are similarly referenced. Full details of the heritage assets are set-out in **Table 1**.

4. Site Background

- 4.1 The Site comprises an area of land at the eastern end of an area already in use as a Sewage Treatment Works and household recycling centre, c. 1.3km from the centre of Fordington to the north-east of Dorchester. The Site is bounded along the north side by a channel of the River Frome which runs west to east, and the main Waterloo to Weymouth railway line to the south. The western boundary adjoins the existing works and there is agricultural land to the east.
- 4.2 The Site slopes gently from south to north at c. 54m- 51m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) as the land drops towards the river. The recorded geology for the Site is Spetisbury Chalk Member - Chalk (BGS, 2017). The soils are described as shallow and lime-rich over chalk or limestone (CSAIS, 2017).
- 4.3 The proposals cover an extension to a household recycling centre, comprising a split-level facility between 8m and 11m high with circulation and parking areas for traffic.

5. Archaeological and Historical Resource

- 5.1 The Site is situated on the eastern edge of Dorchester. Fordington, which forms the eastern part of the modern conurbation, the centre of which is c. 1.3km to the west-north-west, was a royal manor and may have been the site of the royal palace of the Kingdom of Wessex in the 9th and 10th century (Keen 1984). It possibly represents a continuous settlement since the Romano-British period; the church stands on a Roman cemetery (RCHME 1970a, 110). The western end of the current Sewage Treatment Works was just within Fordington parish, whilst the Site itself was within the most north-western corner of the parish of West Stafford. The village of West Stafford is situated c. 1.4km to the east-south-east. Two settlements were noted in Domesday which are most likely the current location of Stafford House and the village of West Stafford (*ibid.*, 246). The Site appears to have been part of a peripheral area during the historic period.

Statutory designated heritage assets

- 5.2 There are no recorded designated or non-designated assets on the Site. A single Scheduled Monument is immediately adjacent (**Figure 1 no. 1**). This comprises Mount Pleasant henge, which covers a c. 500m area along the southern side of the Site, as well as associated features of the Conquer Barrow and other Late Neolithic/Bronze Age barrows. There are also three listed buildings in the wider area. The Grade I Listed home of the author Thomas Hardy, Max Gate (**Figure 1 no. 2**), is situated c. 400m south-west of the existing sewerage works and c. 800m to the south-west of the Site. Grade II Listed 79 St Georges Road, an early 19th century cottage, is positioned c. 900m to the west of the Sewerage Works (**Figure 1 no. 3**), and Louds Mill, a Grade II Listed 18th century cloth mill (**Figure 1 no. 4**) is c. 50m to the north of the north-western corner of the Sewage Works, c. 500m from the Site.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 5.3 The HER (Dorset County Council) lists a number of non-designated heritage assets in the 500m research buffer. There are also numerous similar non-designated assets to the west and south-west which have been included as they relate to the nature and distribution of the archaeological features. To the north, the entire area is covered by post-medieval water meadows whilst to the south there are a large number of assets either noted as part of the complex Scheduled areas of the Mount Pleasant enclosure, or additional probable prehistoric, Romano-British and undated features associated with it, in close proximity.

Discussion of Heritage Assets

Neolithic and Bronze Age c. 4000 BC to c. 1100BC

- 5.4 The entirety of the southern part of the research area, situated immediately adjacent to the Site on the opposite side of the railway line, is covered by the Scheduled Monument of the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure, Conquer Barrow and a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (HE No. 1002463; HER Ref. MDO2890; **Figure 1 no 1**), as well as several associated components and non-designated assets of a similar period. The complex of assets covers an area of roughly 13 hectares. The principle elements are the buried remains of the Late Neolithic henge, a sub-rounded enclosure defined by a bank and interior ditch c. 370m by c. 340m, the outer extent of which is c. 200m from the Site boundary to its south-west, the northern edge of the monument possibly having been cut by the construction of the railway line. It was subject to an excavation in 1969-1971 (Wainwright 1979), which provided information on the construction of the bank and internal ditch, the presence of an associated palisade, and the existence of internal features, including a large penannular post-built feature (Site IV). To the east of the main enclosure is a substantial linear feature, c. 200m in length, which can be seen on aerial photographs and as a depression on the ground (HER Ref. MDO20952). This runs from the eastern entrance into the henge in a north-easterly direction to meet the railway line immediately to the south of the south-eastern corner of the Site. The projected line of this feature would continue immediately to the east of the eastern Site boundary. Another part of the Scheduled Monument, the Conquer Barrow (HER Ref. MDO2888; **Figure 1 no. 26**), is situated on the western edge of the henge enclosure at the edge of the research area. This Late Neolithic barrow is c. 30m in diameter with a surrounding ditch and stands c. 8m high.
- 5.5 The Scheduled area also includes an upstanding Bronze Age bowl barrow to the south-east of the enclosure, c. 16m in diameter and c. 1.5m high. There are eight further ring ditches visible on aerial photographs which form discrete groups of probable barrows arranged in rows (HER Refs. MDO2886; MDO2887; MDO20907; MDO20909; MDO20910; MDO20911; MDO20912; MDO20913; MDO20914). These are situated c. 200m -350m to the south of the southern Site boundary. A further mound and ring ditch are located within the circuit of the Henge, and probably relate to Bronze Age barrows (HER Refs. MDO20950; MDO2889; **Figure 1 nos. 21 & 24**). Additional non-designated assets associated with the Mount Pleasant complex include lithic scatters of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date (HER Refs. MDO2911; MDO2913 **Figure 1 nos. 15 & 17**) which were seen during the installation of a water pipeline, c. 150-300m to the south of the Site. Possible prehistoric pits or post-holes have been seen on aerial photographs in the same area (HER Ref. MDO20915; **Figure 1 no. 14**), whilst a further possible ring ditch seen on aerial photographs on the south-western side of the henge enclosure, on the edge of the research area (HER Ref. MDO20917; **Figure 1 no. 27**), may represent a round house or a further Bronze Age barrow.
- 5.6 Another Neolithic enclosure called Flagstones was part-excavated in 1987-8 in advance of the Dorchester bypass (HER Ref. MDO20969; MDO18013; Davies *et al* 2002; **Figure 1 no. 43 & 48**), and is situated c. 700m to

the south-west of the Site. It is associated with a number of pits and post-holes which were seen in aerial photographs of the unexcavated portion of the Site (HER Ref. MDO20971; **Figure 1 no. 48**). A Bronze Age barrow was subsequently constructed in the centre of the Flagstones enclosure (HER Ref. MDO18076; MDO20970; MDO20976; **Figure 1 no. 44-45 & 51**) which had a central burial of a young man dating from the earliest Bronze Age (HER Ref. MDO18075; **Figure 1 no. 46**).

Iron Age - 800 BC to c. AD42

- 5.7 A possible Iron Age roundhouse is recorded from aerial photographs (HER Ref. MDO20949; **Figure 1 no. 22**) within the circuit of the Mount Pleasant henge, c. 500m to the south-west of the Site. Further ring ditches are known from aerial photographs from the area of the Flagstones enclosure c. 700m to the south-west (HER Refs. MDO20975; MDO20974; MDO20973; **Figure 1 nos. 52-54**), and are also likely to be of Iron Age date. Field boundaries in the same area (HER Ref. MDO20972; **Figure 1 no. 48**) are associated with later Iron Age settlement and a Late Iron Age cemetery (HER Refs. MDO18018 & MDO18017; **Figure 1 no. 50**) excavated in 1987-8. Further field boundaries of later Iron Age or Romano-British date are also known at St Georges Road (HER Ref. MDO20534; **Figure 1 no. 59**), c. 700m to the west of the Site. A further probably prehistoric but currently undated enclosure is known on Frome Hill (HER Ref. MDO20451; **Figure 1 no. 12**) c. 450m south-south-east of the Site, having been identified from aerial photographs. An area of linear features, probably field boundaries (HER Ref. MDO20449; **Figure 1 no. 10**), seen on aerial photographs and LiDAR is also situated on Frome Hill to the east of this enclosure, c. 400m from the Site.

Late Iron Age to Roman - 100 BC to c. AD410

- 5.8 A surface scatter of Late Iron Age or Romano-British black burnished ware (HER Ref. MDO2917; **Figure 1 no. 29**) was recovered during fieldwalking along a water pipeline route in the southern extent of the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure, c. 450m to the south-west of the south-western corner of the Site. Samian pottery of Roman date (HER Ref. MDO2918; **Figure 1 no. 18**) was also noted. A rectilinear enclosure has also been noted on aerial photographs (HER Ref. MDO20948; **Figure 1 no. 23**) situated in the centre of the henge, with further Romano-British material found close by (HER Ref. MDO2892; **Figure 1 no. 25**). Three undated small rectilinear enclosures (HER Ref. MDO2910; MDO2908; **Figure 1 nos. 16 & 30**) in this area may also relate to this period. A group of pits and post-holes (HER Ref. MDO2907; **Figure 1 no. 28**) remain undated, as do two linear features seen in the pipeline route (HER Refs. MDO2909; MDO2906; **Figure 1 nos. 31-32**), but also may be associated with this activity. Late Iron Age and Romano-British burials have been noted at Casterbridge Road (HER Refs. MDO18992; MDO18791; MDO1899 MDO189880; **Figure 1 nos. 37-39 & 41**), c. 700m west-south-west of the Site, and Syward Road (HER Refs. MDO18995; MDO19007; **Figure 1 nos. 36 & 40**). A further inhumation of similar date is recorded at Max Gate (HER Ref. MDO19081; **Figure 1 no. 42**) c. 100m further to the west, and a further burial, another 100m west at Friars Close (HER Ref. MDO18789; **Figure 1 no. 56**). There were also field systems of this period, probably dating from the 1st century AD, around Flagstones (HER Ref. MDO18016; **Figure 1 no. 49 & 55**). A Romano-British enclosure and grain dryer (HER Ref. MDO18004; **Figure 1 no. 60**) was seen at St Georges Road c. 700m to the west of the Site. Undated ditches at Red Cow Farm (HER Ref. MDO18175; **Figure 1 no. 66**) c. 800m to the west of the Site, may relate to this enclosure.

Roman to Post-Roman/Early Medieval- c. AD43 to AD1065

- 5.9 An enclosure at St George's Road (HER Ref. MDO18009; **Figure 1 no. 63**), containing post-built buildings, possibly barns or dwellings, may be of late Roman or more likely post-Roman date. A curvilinear boundary ditch (HER Ref. MDO18006; **Figure 1 no. 61**), re-cut several times, was also present in this location and was likely of similar date. Parallel ditches defining strips of land in the same area (HER Ref. MDO18007; **Figure 1 no. 58**) are probably slightly later, but still early medieval. Two medieval ditches were also seen during excavation at Red Cow Farm (HER No. MDO18176; **Figure 1 no. 65**), c. 800m to the west of the Site.

Medieval c. AD1066-c. AD1540

- 5.10 A number of shallow parallel ditches were identified during excavation at St Georges Road (HER Ref. MDO18008; **Figure 1 no. 62**) c. 800m to the west of the Site. These probably represent part of the Fordington medieval and post-medieval open field system. A series of low linear earthworks and lynchets at St Georges Road/Smoky Hole Lane (HER Ref. MDO18011; **Figure 1 no. 57**) c. 850m to the west of the Site are undated but may also be associated. Further similar, although also undated, shallow ditches were seen at Conygar Hill (HER No. MDO18328; **Figure 1 no. 35**) c. 800m to the south-west of the Site, and are also thought to be part of a

medieval layout. A possible trackway at Came Home Farm (HER ref. MDO20831; **Figure 1** no. **34**), c. 650m to the south-west of the Site, is likely to be of medieval or post-medieval date.

Post-medieval – c. AD1540 to AD 1900

- 5.11 There are extensive water meadows along the Frome valley (HER Refs. MDO20538; MDO20535; MDO20537; **Figure 1** nos. **6-8**) from c. 1000m to the north-west, along the northern boundary of the Site and extending c. 700m to the north-east. The area around the Site had also seen some post-medieval chalk extraction. There are several extraction pits on Frome Hill (HER Refs. MDO20844; MDO20842; MDO20843; **Figure 1** nos. **9, 11 & 13**), c. 400-500m away in an arc along the hill to the south-east of the Site, and at Came Home Farm (HER Ref. MDO20829; **Figure 1** no. **33**) c. 550m to the south-west. A number of irregular features around the Mount Pleasant henge (HER Ref. MDO20951; **Figure 1** no. **19**) may be of natural origin or may also relate to post-medieval chalk extraction. A further sub-circular hollow of uncertain date (HER Ref. MDO20536; **Figure 1** no. **20**) is situated on the north-eastern edge of the henge enclosure, adjacent to the railway and c. 150m to the south-west of the Site. Clay pipe fragments dating to the 19th century are recorded from the St Georges Road allotments (HER Ref. MDO19227; **Figure 1** no. **64**), c. 700m to the west.
- 5.12 The Grade I listed Max Gate (HE No. 1110618; HER Ref. MDO10102; **Figure 1** no. **2**), the 19th century home of the novelist Thomas Hardy, is situated at 1 Alington Avenue, c. 900m to the south-west of the Site. An early 19th century thatched cottage at 79, St Georges Road c. 900m to the west is Grade II Listed (HE No. 1119009; HE No. MDO10087; **Figure 1** no. **3**). The Grade II Listed Louds Mill (HE No. 1119010; HER Ref. MDO10262; **Figure 1** no. **4**), c. 500m to the north-west of the Site and immediately adjacent to the north boundary of the existing Sewage Treatment Works was a late 19th century cloth mill. Part of it was later repurposed as a pumping station for the Sewage Treatment Works.

Modern

- 5.13 A 20th century rubbish dump has been identified at St Georges Road (HER Ref. MDO19407; **Figure 1** no. **5**).

Historic mapping

- 5.14 An initial appraisal of historic mapping appears to indicate that the Site was in agricultural use from at least the beginning of the 19th century until the mid-20th century. The Site was originally within the parish of West Stafford, and the first map which it can be seen on is the 1839 tithe map (**Plate 1**). The western end of the existing Sewage Treatment Works was within Fordington and shown as part of a pasture. It was part of a 'barn close' in the possession of William Sturton. The apportionment associated with the West Stafford map implies that the land was part of the wastes, and no land divisions are shown in this part of the parish on this map. All of this land was held by John Floyer Esq. None of the known earthworks are shown, despite the fact that the Conquer Barrow at least would still have been a substantial upstanding mound. On the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889, the area of the Site is shown with the boundaries which are still present today, with the southern aspect defined by the railway line, the northern boundary being a stream of the Frome, and a hedge running between the two in the location of the eastern boundary of the Site. To the west, the Site is continuous with what is now the rest of the Sewage Treatment Works Site. The area was clearly an area of open agricultural land with no other features within it. To the south of the railway, the earthworks of the Mount Pleasant henge and the Conquer Barrow are shown clearly, but with more upstanding earthworks around the southern arc. Early 20th century maps show the Site unchanged, but the Sewage Treatment Works had been constructed by the time of the 1956 OS map. A track from the main structures ran east eastwards across the Site, and the northern part appears to have been used as overflow areas from the irrigation beds to the west. A fourfold subdivision is shown, with a sluice and a drainage channel along the west side. These appear to be relatively ephemeral features. The layout is similar on the 1962 OS map, but these structures have disappeared by the time of the 1976 map.

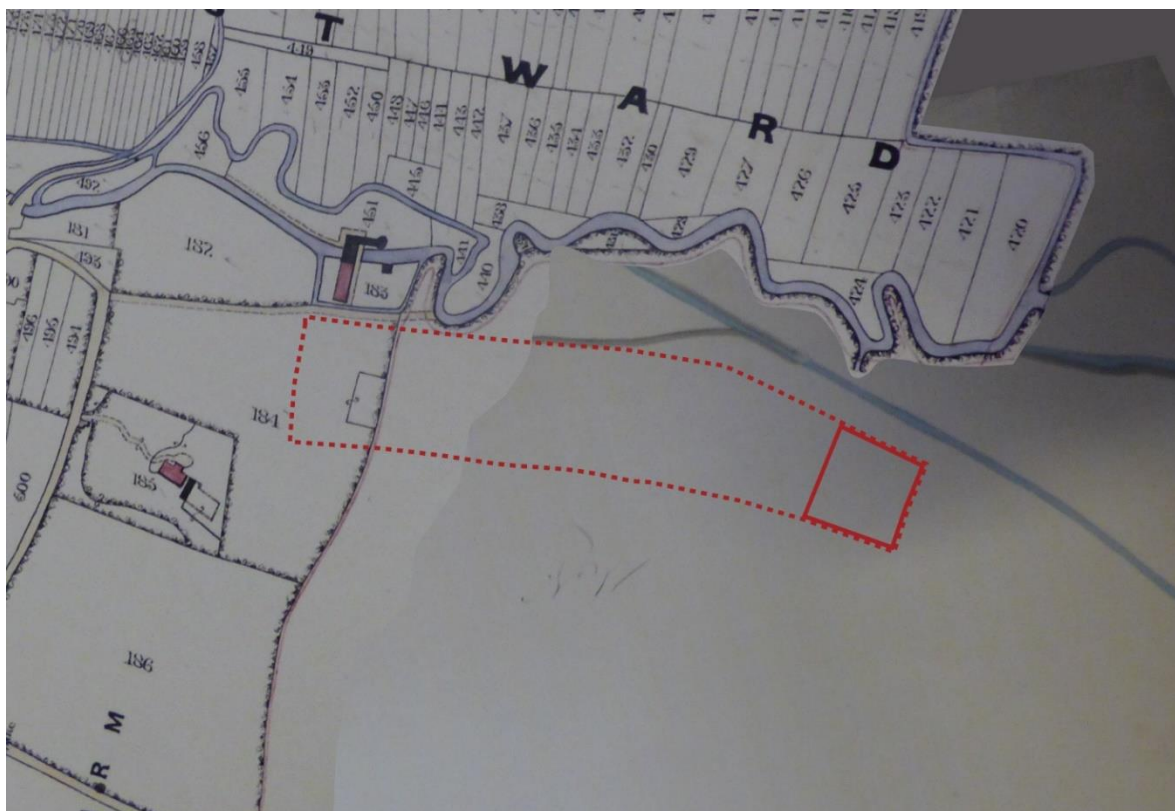


Plate 1. Fordington Tithe Map 1877 (west part)/West Stafford Tithe Map 1839

6. Significance of the Heritage Assets

- 6.1 Whilst the significance of the non-designated heritage assets are not disregarded, for the purposes of this level of assessment, the focus will be on the effect of the designated assets only. There is one designated heritage asset situated within the 500m study area, with three further assets beyond the research buffer to the west (**Table 1**). The adjacent asset is a Scheduled Monument, whilst the three to the west comprise a Grade I Listed and two Grade II Listed buildings, associated with the outskirts of Fordington. These are briefly described below in order to consider the source of their significance; the current relationship with the Site; and the contribution it may or may not make to their significance. This provides a basis from which it is possible to assess which heritage assets might be affected by the proposed development, and whether further analysis in the form of a Heritage Impact Assessment is necessary to fully understand the nature of such impacts.

Source of significance

- 6.2 Given its statutory designation, the Scheduled area of the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure and associated Neolithic and Bronze Age mounds and other features (**Figure 1 no. 1**) is of the highest significance as a heritage asset. A considerable proportion of its significance is derived from its evidential and historic value as an uncommon large-scale prehistoric earthwork, associated with a rare Late Neolithic mound, the Conquer Barrow, and an extensive Bronze Age barrow cemetery, which creates an extensive and complex later prehistoric ceremonial and funerary landscape. Max Gate (**Figure 1 no. 2**) c. 700m to the west is also of the highest significance as a Grade I Listed building. The house gains its evidential and aesthetic significance as a late Victorian structure, but its historic significance derives from its having been the home of the famous Dorset novelist Thomas Hardy. Now in the care of the National Trust, it has communal significance as a destination and opportunity for informal learning by visitors. The remaining buildings, 79 St Georges Road and Louds Mill (**Figure 1 no. 3 & 4**), are of less than the highest significance as Grade II Listed buildings. Their significance is derived from their evidential and historic value as buildings with post-medieval fabric, and aesthetic value from appreciation of these historic buildings. Louds Mill has historical significance in attesting to industry associated with the Frome during the 19th century.

6.3 The immediate and wider physical setting of each heritage asset as seen from Google maps is set-out in **Table 1**. Mount Pleasant has a rural setting to the south and east, but is bordered to the west and north by residential housing and the Sewage Treatment Works. The contribution of setting to the significance of Max Gate is likely to be mostly defined by close views from surrounding residences and roads, as is 79 St Georges Road, although this may enjoy a wider rural outlook to the north. The setting of Loud’s Mill is likely to be influenced by the adjacent Sewage Treatment Works to the south, although it enjoys a largely rural outlook to the west, north and east. The assets would predominantly be experienced from adjacent roads, but there may be important views towards the Mount Pleasant enclosure and Louds Mill from greater distance. The associations are predominantly cultural, although the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure and its associated mounds and other features also has intellectual associations as a Site that may attract study.

Table 1. Significance & setting of designated heritage assets

DESCRIPTION	DESIGNATION*	SIGNIFICANCE				PHYSICAL SETTING
		Evidential	Historical	Aesthetic	Communal	
Heritage Asset						
1. Mount Pleasant Henge (HE No. 1002463)	SM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Immediate and wider setting is rural, with Fordington immediately to the west and STV to the north
2. Max Gate (HE No. 1110618)	GI	Y	Y	N	Y	Suburban setting with roads to south
3. 79 St Georges Road (HE No. 1119009)	GII	Y	Y	N	Y	Suburban setting with rural setting to the north
4. Loud’s Mill (HE No. 1119010)	GII	Y	Y	Y	Y	Immediate and wider setting is rural, with STW immediately to the south
SM = Scheduled Monument GI = Grade 1 Listed Building GII* = Grade 2* Listed Building GII = Grade 2 Listed Building CA = Conservation Area WHS = World Heritage Site RPG = Registered Parks & Garden RB = Registered Battlefield		Evidential ‘Value deriving from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.’	Aesthetic – ‘Value deriving from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.’	Historical – ‘An aspect of the worth or importance attached by people to qualities of places’	Communal ‘Value deriving from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.’	

Current relationships between the Site and heritage assets

6.4 The Site is the eastern end of an area already in use as a Sewage Treatment Works and household recycling centre, c. 1.3km from the centre of Fordington, to the north-east of Dorchester. At present, the Site is a disused area of the works on the edge of the town, but with a rural backdrop with fields extending into the distance. Due to the proximity and scale of the Mount Pleasant enclosure and associated monuments it is likely that the

Site would be visible from this heritage asset, although it is less clear whether there would be any visibility with Listed buildings which are more distant and may have visibility limited by other buildings and the undulations of terrain. However, this could only be established by computer modelling and field testing.

Contribution of Site to significance of Heritage Assets

- 6.5 The heritage assets probably have varying degrees of potential intervisibility with the Site, with Mount Pleasant being the closest to the Site, whilst other assets are more distant and beyond the study area. It is not possible to establish setting using desk-based sources alone, but as Mount Pleasant is a heritage asset of the highest significance, as is Max Gate, further examination of any potential effects on these might be considered desirable. This could not be established by using desk-based sources alone, and would be clarified by carrying out a Heritage Impact Assessment.

7. Potential impact of allocation on Heritage Assets

- 7.1 The Site currently comprises an area of brownfield land situated to the north c. 1.3km from the centre of Fordington, to the north-east of Dorchester, and is under consideration for inclusion in a Plan for provision of an extension to a household recycling centre. This would comprise a structure up to 11m high and include area for traffic access. The area of the Site would be directly affected by construction of the facility, and there are potentially secondary effects which may impact on heritage assets from aesthetic change, traffic movement, light pollution, noise etc, depending on the eventual design of the project.
- 7.2 This assessment has indicated that there are no designated or non-designated assets on the Site. However, there are extensive areas of archaeological monuments, features and deposits covering the entire area of the field to the south and south-west of the Site, extending to the west, as well as extensive post-medieval water meadows situated immediately to the north and extending to the east and west of the Site.
- 7.3 The Scheduled Mount Pleasant henge enclosure, its associated archaeological features, and the complex of associated monuments, represents a highly significant group of prehistoric and later features. Whilst the earthworks of the Mount Pleasant henge had been degraded by ploughing by the mid-20th century, the importance of the monument was noted in its scheduling due to the potential of the below ground archaeology and the rareness of Neolithic monuments on this scale (Wainwright 1979). The henge occupies a low ridge between the Frome to the north and the South Winterborne to the south. The scale of the Mount Pleasant henge and its contemporary interior features was revealed in Wainwright's excavations in the late 1960s (*ibid*); the modified henge at Maumbury Rings lies c. 2km to the west. Subsequent excavation in Dorchester along this ridge has demonstrated that there were additional contemporary monuments between the two. In addition to the density of Neolithic and Bronze Age features around the enclosure, Mount Pleasant is part of a wider complex of later Neolithic monuments, including a large pit circle seen at Greyhound Yard (Woodward *et al* 1993), the Flagstones pit enclosure (Smith *et al* 1997), and contemporary features at Alington Avenue (Davies *et al* 2002) just to the west of Mount Pleasant.
- 7.4 The scale of the henge and the associated structures places it in a class of very large late Neolithic monuments such as Avebury, Durrington Walls, Knowlton Circles, and Marden, underlining its significance as representing an extensive Neolithic ceremonial landscape. Mount Pleasant shares its internal timber circle with Durrington Walls and Marden (Gale 2003, 54), association with a large mound (the Conquer Barrow) with Avebury, and Marden, and the possible linear approach to the west has echoes in the avenues at Durrington Walls, Avebury and Stonehenge. The significance of the area is underlined by the Bronze Age development of a barrow cemetery to the south-east of the monument. The area also attracted activity during the later prehistoric and into the Romano-British period, although the area to the south of the Site may have been peripheral to a concentration of settlement and burial areas to the west. The existence of buildings which are likely to date to the immediate post-Roman period in that area (Davies *et al* 2002) is highly significant due to the rarity of known structures of that date.
- 7.5 Consideration of historic maps has shown that the Site has been in agricultural use since at least the beginning of the 19th century, prior to the development of the area as a Sewage Treatment Works. The northern two thirds of the Site was used during the mid-20th century as settling ponds for the works before becoming disused.

- 7.6 There is therefore some potential for archaeological features and deposits to be preserved on the Site; the line of a large prehistoric feature which leads to the entrance to the Mount Pleasant henge projects immediately to the south-east of the Site, and there are features and find spots of material immediately to the south of the railway. Further archaeological features, deposits and materials might reasonably also be expected to be present within the Site, given this proximity. The Site appears to have been in agricultural use throughout the 19th and early 20th century. Part of the Site had been used as part of the Sewage Treatment Works during the mid-20th century, before reverting to waste land. It is therefore possible that archaeological features and deposits in the northern part of the Site have been impacted by the construction of the overflow areas, but depending on how they were constructed this may have been minimal. Consideration should be given in due course/at planning application stage to further archaeological investigation which might take the form of archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching.
- 7.7 As well as the Scheduled Mount Pleasant enclosure and its associated features, there is a Grade I Listed building, Max Gate, home of the Dorset novelist Thomas Hardy, situated c. 800m to the south-west of the Site. The Grade II Listed 79 St Georges Road, an early 19th century cottage is positioned c. 900m to the west of the Sewerage Works and Louds Mill, a Grade II Listed 18th century cloth mill is c. 50m to the north of the north-western corner of the Sewage Works, c. 500m from the Site.

Future Actions

- 7.8 With respect to the potential for buried archaeological features and deposits, further investigation should be carried out once detailed proposals are known in order to determine the nature and extent of deposits and frame a suitable approach to mitigation and the recording of those assets. This may involve excavation of archaeological evaluation trenches; the area is likely to be unsuitable for an archaeological geophysical survey. With respect to the designated assets, it is not possible to establish setting using desk-based sources alone. However, the Mount Pleasant henge enclosure and associated elements which is immediately adjacent to the Site is of the highest significance, as is Max Gate. As such, further examination of any potential effects on these assets might be considered desirable within a full Settings Assessment as part of a planning application in accordance with steps 2-5 of the Historic England guidance on the setting of heritage assets (Historic England 2015). A further assessment could enable a fuller understanding what the impacts might be, how, if harmful, these might be mitigated or what further work needs to be done to maximise enhancement and avoid harm. This might include consideration of the appropriateness of the footprint and elevation of the building; provision of screening to control visual effects and/or light pollution or noise.

8. Bibliography

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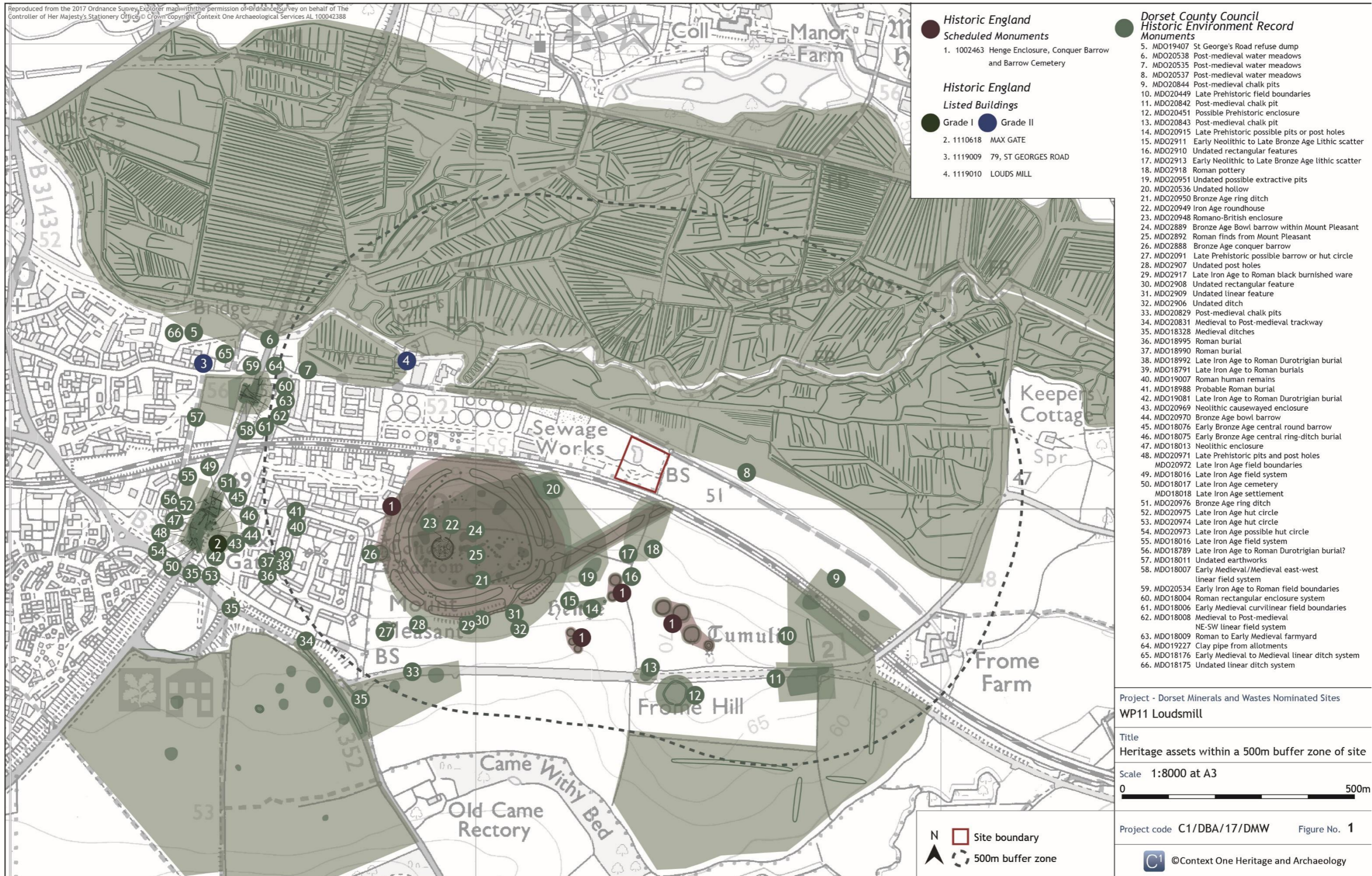


Figure 1. Heritage assets within a 500m buffer zone of site

Appendix 1. Heritage Assets within c. 500m research buffer of the Site (No. as indicated on Figure 1)

Historic England – Scheduled Monuments

Figure 2 Ref.	HE No.	Monument Name	Summary
1	1002463	Henge Enclosure, Conquer Barrow and Barrow Cemetery	<p>PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS: the monument includes the earthwork and buried remains of a Late Neolithic henge enclosure at Mount Pleasant, situated on the west-east axis of the Alington Ridge. Immediately to the west is Conquer Barrow, a substantial earthwork which probably dates initially to the Late Neolithic period. To the south-west and south-east are a number of later prehistoric round barrows which variously survive as upstanding earthworks and as ring ditches that are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: the monument is evident as a complex series of cropmarks and earthworks in an area of approximately 13 hectares. The henge was subject to geophysical survey and excavation in 1969-1971 and also has good aerial photographic coverage. A watching brief was carried out in one part of the site in 1986. These investigations collectively provide considerable information about the form and function of the monument.</p> <p>Excavation of the henge has indicated that it comprises a large, roughly D-shaped enclosure defined by a bank and an internal ditch which enclose an area some 370m from west to east and 340m north to south. The chalk rubble bank was originally some 4m high and its width varied between 16m and 23m. Although the site has been under plough for centuries, it survives as a slight earthwork along its south-eastern sector, although this may be due to a possible later heightening of this section of bank. All but the north and north-west sections of the bank are visible on aerial photographs and on LiDAR (remote sensing); it is possible that the northernmost section may have been truncated by the construction of the railway cutting. The width of the internal ditch varies between 9m and 17m wide and its depth is irregular. Although it cannot be traced on the ground, almost its entire circuit is visible as cropmarks. Aerial photographs taken in 2004 have provided evidence for a berm between the bank and ditch and also for an external ditch on the north, east and south-east sides of the enclosure; however it is unclear whether this ditch is present around the whole circuit of the henge.</p> <p>There are a number of entrances into the enclosure, to the west, east, south-east and north, and a fifth entrance in the south-western section has been identified on aerial photographs taken in the 1990s. The 1970-1971 excavation demonstrated that the west entrance had been narrowed in about 1800 BC by extending the adjacent ditch terminals, while two rows of large pits within the south-western entrance, visible on aerial photographs, seem to indicate that this entrance may also have been narrowed or partly blocked at some time. A foundation trench for a palisade running within and parallel to the enclosure ditch was also partly excavated in 1970-1971 and found to contain post holes for closely-set, large oak timbers that probably stood some 6m high. Narrow entrances to the north and east were identified through the palisade which aligned with the respective entrances in the enclosure bank. The excavation also uncovered evidence to indicate that some sections of the timber palisade were destroyed by fire, while elsewhere its posts were removed or left to decay in-situ. To the north-east of the henge is a substantial linear feature which appears as a cropmark on aerial photographs, but can also be discerned as a wide, shallow depression on the ground. It is at least 200m in length and is orientated south-west to north-east, running close to, but not aligned with, the east entrance. It has been suggested (Barber, 2005) that it may be some form of approach to the henge, but it has not been subject to archaeological investigation.</p> <p>Within the south-western area of the enclosure is the large circular feature known as 'Site IV' which has been dated to around 2000 BC. The excavation provided evidence that it comprised a penannular ditch, some 43m in diameter, 2.5m wide and 2m deep with an entrance on its north side which encircled five broadly concentric rings of posts holes where large wooden posts once stood. These were laid out around central aisles which were aligned north to south and east to west respectively, dividing the rings into quadrants. A series of larger pits representing the remains of a rectangular structure of sarsens were also found, along with evidence for a number of outlying pits and monoliths. Site IV's ditch remains clearly visible on aerial photographs taken in the years post-excavation.</p> <p>The pottery recovered during the excavation of the henge was primarily Late Neolithic Grooved Ware, but Wessex/Middle Rhine, plain Neolithic bowl forms and Beaker Ware were also present, as well as later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery. Flint and chalk artefacts, antler picks, human remains, animal bone, a Bronze Age axe and two Anglo-Saxon inhumation graves were also recovered.</p> <p>Conquer Barrow is situated immediately to the west of the henge. Its earthen mound rises approximately 8m above the surrounding ground surface and is around 30m in diameter at its base, rising to a flat summit, some 7m in diameter. Archaeological investigations, including augering and limited excavation, in 1970 demonstrated that the mound is surrounded by a circular, flat-bottomed ditch, some 7m wide and 3m deep, which is interrupted by at least two causeways. A ditch terminal and small section of ditch were briefly examined in 1970-1971, but little dateable evidence was recovered; an antler pick, radiocarbon dated to 2880-2480cal BC, was</p>

			<p>found either in the primary fills or the base of the ditch, and some fragments of pottery, including a Bronze Age sherd, a Beaker sherd and some of Iron Age date. Although it is not visible on the surface, the ditch is considered to survive as a buried feature.</p> <p>Some 370m south-east of the henge is a later prehistoric round barrow (SY7149989701) which survives as a circular earthwork mound some 16m in diameter and 1.5m high. The surrounding quarry ditch, from which material was excavated during the construction of the mound, is no longer visible at ground level or on aerial photographs, but it is likely to survive as a buried feature. In addition, eight cropmark ring ditches which are considered to represent the remains of plough-levelled barrows are visible on aerial photographs to the west and north-west of the upstanding barrow. Collectively they form three discrete groups: two parallel groups of three and four barrows which are orientated north-west to south-east, and two further ring ditches slightly to the north which are located between the parallel groups. The ring ditches vary in size, with internal diameters ranging from 13m up to 32m. The one immediately north-west of the upstanding barrow was described as a ploughed-down mound in 1979, but has since been levelled by cultivation. In 1986 the area in which the northernmost ring ditch is situated was examined during a watching brief in advance of the construction of a water pipeline to the south and south-east of the henge. It revealed some features associated with burning on either side of the location of the ring ditch and a small collection of lithic finds. However, nothing firmly identifiable as the ring ditch appears to have been identified. The area between these groups of ring ditches regularly produces 'natural' cropmarks, which may possibly mask the presence of other archaeological features. The cropmark of a further possible ring ditch has also been identified approximately 140m south-east of Conquer Barrow, but it is a relatively small feature that is isolated from the rest of the group and is not included in the scheduling.</p> <p>EXTENT OF SCHEDULING: the scheduled area, which comprises four separate areas, includes the known extent of the henge enclosure, the upstanding earthwork known as Conquer Barrow, and the groups of ring ditches and one upstanding bowl barrow. A 2m margin has been included for the support and protection of the monument on all sides, except to the north where the monument boundary follows the line of the railway cutting.</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS: all concrete and wooden fence posts, fencing, garden walls, sheds and decking and retaining walls are excluded from the scheduling, but the ground beneath these features, however, is included.</p>
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Historic England – Listed Buildings

Figure 2 Ref.	HE No.	Building Name	Summary
Grade I			
2	1110618	Max Gate	ALINGTON AVENUE 1. 5191 Max Gate SY 6990 6/5 8.5.70. I 2. 1885. Architect: Thomas Hardy. Red brick "Queen Anne" in the manner of Webb rather than that of Shaw. Built by Hardy for himself, and his own home until his death in 1928.
Grade II			
3	1119009	79, St Georges Road	ST GEORGES ROAD 1. 5191 (North Side) No 79 SY 7090 4/129 II 2. Early C19. 2 storey cottage. Local stone rubble walls. Brick dressings. Thatched roof with hipped gable-end facing road. Brick chimneys. Casements with glazing bars.
4	1119010	Louds Mill	ST GEORGES ROAD 1. 5191 (North Side) Loud's Mill. (Formerly listed under Fordington) SY 7090 4/127 3.1.72. II 2. 3 storeys and 4 storeys red brick range. Mostly 3-light windows with small panes and segmental heads. The north end is dated 1779, the south end 1826. There is a projecting wing at the back with a 1st floor 3-light bowed window. At right angles to the north end is an attractive stable building with a circular corn-store at one end of it. the buildings were originally a cloth mill, but are now used as a sewage pumping station, stores and 3 dwelling houses. The water wheel has been removed. Apart from its interest as an early industrial building the group is attractive on its own account.

Dorset County Council Historic Environment Record

Monuments

Figure 2 Ref.	HER Ref.	Monument Name	Summary

Scheduled Monuments			
1	MDO2890 MDO20952 MDO2886 MDO2887 MDO20907 MDO20909 MDO20910 MDO20911 MDO20912 MDO20913 MDO20914	Mount Pleasant, West Stafford Linear feature, a possible approach route to Mount Pleasant, West Stafford Bowl barrows	A large Neolithic henge enclosure visible as slight earthworks and cropmarks on aerial photographs. This monument, which was partly excavated by Wainwright in 1970-71, comprises a ditch and outer bank around an irregular oval area, with four entrances. Principal features of the interior are a palisade trench on the inner side of the ditch and a structure comprising five concentric circles of post holes within a ditch. A substantial ditched linear feature, located to the east of Mount Pleasant henge enclosure, is visible as cropmarks and earthworks on aerial photographs. It may represent an approach route to the henge from the north-east. Site of a Bronze Age bowl barrows visible as a ring ditch cropmarks on aerial photographs. Part of a wider linear barrow cemetery located to the south-east of Mount Pleasant.
Listed Buildings			
2	MDO10102	Max Gate, Alington Avenue, Dorchester	Post Medieval house.
3	MDO10087	79 St George's Road, Dorchester	Post Medieval house.
4	MDO10262	Louds Mill, Dorchester	Post-medieval industrial building.
Prehistoric - 500000 BC to 42 AD			
12	MDO20451	Frome Hill: possible enclosure	A possible enclosure is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs.
Late Prehistoric - 4000 BC? to 42 AD?			
10	MDO20449	Frome Hill: field boundaries	Field boundaries visible as low earthworks on aerial photographs and LIDAR, possibly prehistoric in date.
14	MDO20915	Mount Pleasant: possible pits or post holes	Two possible prehistoric pits or post-holes visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, located approximately just south-east of Mount Pleasant henge.
27	MDO20917	Mount Pleasant: possible barrow or hut circle	Prehistoric ring ditch visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs, possible barrow or hut circle.
48	MDO20971	Flagstones: pits and post holes	A series of prehistoric pits and/or post-holes visible as soilmarks on aerial photographs taken during the excavation of Flagstones Neolithic enclosure.
Neolithic - 4000 BC to 2351 BC			
43	MDO20969	Flagstones: causewayed enclosure	Site of a Neolithic enclosure, half of which was excavated from 1987-8 in advance of the construction of the Dorchester bypass road. It was plotted from soil marks visible on aerial photographs taken during excavations.
Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age - 4000 BC to 701 BC			
15	MDO2911	Lithic scatter near Mount Pleasant, West Stafford	An extensive lithic scatter recorded during installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985. The scatter was concentrated around the south entrance to Mount Pleasant, and was Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age in date.
17	MDO2913	Lithic scatter near Mount Pleasant, West Stafford	An extensive lithic scatter recorded during installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985. The scatter was concentrated on one side of a ridge above the River Frome, and was Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age in date.

Middle Neolithic - 3500 BC to 2701 BC			
47	MDO18013	Flagstones Neolithic enclosure, Dorchester	A probable circular enclosure consisting of a single circuit of unevenly spaced pits constructed in the late 4th millennium cal. BC. There were two larger gaps in the circuit to the north and west. Four engravings were found on the sides of four segments and three primary burials (one cremation, the remainder inhumation) were placed in the base of segments, two beneath large stone slabs and the other close to another large stone. Another burial was cut into the primary fills of another segment. There is some suggestion for an earlier stone phase to this monument with a number of pits on the edge of the ditch segments and a large number of massive stones or deliberately broken fragments of stone in the fills of the segments.
Early Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 1501 BC			
45	MDO18076	Flagstones central round barrow, Dorchester	A probable Bell Barrow constructed in the centre of the Flagstones Neolithic enclosure in the early 2nd millennium BC. There was a central crouched inhumation burial sealed beneath a large sarsen stone. This was sealed beneath a mound constructed of chalk quarried from a surrounding ring ditch. The barrow was subsequently remodelled with the addition of material from groups of quarry pits around its circumference.
46	MDO18075	Flagstones central ring-ditch burial	A grave was cut into the centre of the Flagstones Neolithic enclosure in the early 2nd millennium BC. It was also located in the centre of the Flagstones central ring ditch. The grave contained a crouched young adult male sealed beneath a large sarsen stone. A copper alloy rivet was found in the grave fill. A radiocarbon date of 2130-1710 cal BC at 2 sigma (HAR-9159) was obtained from the burial.
Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC			
21	MDO20950	MOUNT PLEASANT: ring ditch	A prehistoric ring ditch is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. It is located within the interior of Mount Pleasant henge enclosure and is probably the remains of a barrow or hut circle.
24	MDO2889	Bowl barrow within Mount Pleasant, West Stafford	A mound situated near the centre of the Mount Pleasant henge monument, and interpreted as a possible round barrow.
26	MDO2888	Conquer Barrow, West Stafford	A bowl barrow constructed over the enclosure bank of the Mount Pleasant henge on its western side, probably Bronze Age in date. Visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs.
44	MDO20970	Flagstones: bowl barrow	Site of an Early Bronze Age bowl barrow, cut into the centre of the Flagstones Neolithic enclosure, visible as a ring ditch and mound on aerial photographs taken during the excavation of this site.
51	MDO20976	Flagstones: ring ditch	A prehistoric ring ditch is visible on aerial photographs taken during the excavation of Flagstones Neolithic enclosure. Probably the site of a Bronze Age bowl barrow or a hut circle associated with the Iron Age field system overlying the enclosure
Iron Age - 800 BC to 42 AD			
22	MDO20949	MOUNT PLEASANT: Iron Age roundhouse	An Iron Age roundhouse is visible as a soilmark in aerial photographs taken of Mount Pleasant henge monument during excavation of the site by Geoffrey Wainwright (1970-71)
Early Iron Age to Roman - 800 BC to 409 AD			
59	MDO20534	St Georges Road: field boundaries	Field boundaries of possibly Iron Age or Roman date, visible as bare soilmarks under archaeological excavation on aerial photographs.
Late Iron Age - 100 BC to 42 AD			
48	MDO20972	Flagstones: field boundaries	A Late Iron Age field system overlying Flagstones Neolithic enclosure is visible on aerial photographs taken during the excavation of this site.
50	MDO18017	Late Iron Age cemetery at Flagstones, Dorchester	A scattered group of five graves with flexed, crouched or contracted inhumations and three pits also containing flexed or contracted inhumations found in the southern half of the Flagstones excavations. No grave goods.
50	MDO18018	Late Iron Age settlement at	A Late Iron Age settlement comprising the remains of a ditched enclosure, seven bell-shaped storage pits, both inside and outside the enclosure and three bowl-shaped pits. Significant quantities of Late Iron Age settlement debris were recovered from the enclosure ditch and some

		Flagstones, Dorchester	of the pits. Three pits also contained inhumation burials. The enclosure ditch and several pits were cut by a later ditch.
52	MDO20975	Flagstones: hut circle	A prehistoric ring ditch is visible on aerial photographs taken during the excavation of Flagstones Neolithic enclosure. Probably the site of a hut circle associated with the Iron Age field system which overlies the enclosure.
53	MDO20974	Flagstones: hut circle	A prehistoric ring ditch is visible on aerial photographs taken during the excavation of Flagstones Neolithic enclosure. Probably the site of a hut circle associated with the Iron Age field system which overlies the enclosure.
54	MDO20973	Flagstones: possible hut circle	A prehistoric ring ditch is visible on aerial photographs taken during the excavation of Flagstones Neolithic enclosure, probably the site of an Iron Age hut circle.
Late Iron Age to Roman - 100 BC to 409 AD			
29	MDO2917	Black Burnished ware, West Stafford	A surface scatter of Black Burnished ware recorded during fieldwalking associated with installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985.
38	MDO18992	1 Casterbridge Road, Dorchester; Durotrigian burial	A burial was found in 1957 about the centre of 1 Casterbridge Road. The skeleton is said to have been extended and orientated north – south. The skeleton was destroyed but pieces of the jawbone of a man aged between 25 and 30 years were found close by. Pottery found with the skeleton - substantial parts of three Durotrigian vessels - are now in the Dorset County Museum. The grave was in a feature described as a trench or fissure 5 feet wide and at least 14 feet deep; this same features was reported from 2 Casterbridge Road and close to Syward Road and at 9 Came View Road, where a worn sestertius of Antoninus Pius (AD 138–61) was said to have been found in the filling.
39	MDO18791	Roman burials at 3 Casterbridge Road, Dorchester	Work for the foundations of an extension to 3 Casterbridge Road was observed during 1984. Two extended adult skeletons, aligned N-S, were discovered in shallow chalk cut graves. There were no grave goods but fragments of Durotrigian pottery was associated with them.
42	MDO19081	Max Gate, Dorchester; Durotrigian burial	CROUCHED INHUMATION
49	MDO18016	Late Iron Age field system at Flagstones, Dorchester	A series of shallow gullies defining a rectilinear field system oriented NE-SW found during the excavations at Flagstones. These fields were probably laid out in the 1st century BC.
55	MDO18016	Late Iron Age field system at Flagstones, Dorchester	A series of shallow gullies defining a rectilinear field system oriented NE-SW found during the excavations at Flagstones. These fields were probably laid out in the 1st century BC.
56	MDO18789	6 Friars Close, Dorchester; Durotrigian burial?	The find was reported to the DCM who visited site along with Wessex Archaeology staff. The burial had already been removed and its orientation and position is not certain. The size of the shallow grave suggests that the skeleton may have been in the crouched position and of possible late Iron Age date. The skeleton was that of an adult male, aged between 25 and 35 years, 5ft 9ins tall and incomplete. He had poor dental health and suffered from osteoarthritis and osteophytosis.
Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD			
18	MDO2918	Roman pottery, West Stafford	A surface find of Samian ware recorded during fieldwalking associated with installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985.
23	MDO20948	MOUNT PLEASANT: Romano-British enclosure	A rectangular enclosure of Romano-British date is visible as a soilmark on aerial photographs taken of Mount Pleasant henge monument during excavation of the site by Geoffrey Wainwright (1970-71).
25	MDO2892	Roman finds from Mount Pleasant, West Stafford	FINDSPOT
36	MDO18995	Syward Road, Dorchester; Roman burial	A grave containing an extended inhumation burial with head to the ENE was found during the digging of a telephone cable trench in 1955. Late Roman pottery probably from the grave fill suggest a Roman date.

37	MDO18990	Roman burial at 4 Casterbridge Road, Dorchester	A skeleton in a shallow grave was found during construction of a driveway in 1957. The grave was oriented WNW to ESE with the head at the western end, and the skeleton was of an elderly male, with a badly-healed broken femur. No grave goods were found, though a coin of Constantine I (AD 317-320) was found in the garden nearby. This is one of a cluster of inhumation burials in this area, interpreted as a small cemetery of Romano-British date.
40	MDO19007	Twenty Acre Field, Syward Road, Dorchester; human remains	Part of a human skull was reported as having been found in 1952 in Twenty Acre Field, shortly to be developed for housing, and now the Came View estate. This could indicate the site of a burial, possibly of prehistoric or Romano-British date.
41	MDO18988	Probable Roman burial, 17 Casterbridge Road, Dorchester	An unaccompanied inhumation burial was found immediately north of 17 Casterbridge Road in 1958. This burial is thought most likely to be Roman in date.
60	MDO18004	St George's Road rectangular enclosure system	A rectangular ditched enclosure with two entrances found at St George's Road in advance of the Dorchester By-pass construction. At least two phases of use, with the blocking of one entrance in the second phase. There are a number of subdivisions within the enclosure. A grain drier and a pit appear to be associated with this enclosure. Elements of other rectangular enclosures to the east.
Roman to Early Medieval/Dark Age - 43 AD? to 1065 AD?			
63	MDO18009	St George's Road farmyard	A possible farmyard consisting of a rectangular enclosure containing two post-built buildings (a barn and a grainstore?), a grain drier and pits, with two ancillary enclosures, possibly for stock. These may be late Roman or sub-Roman in date.
Early Medieval/Dark Age - 410 AD? to 1065 AD?			
61	MDO18006	St George's Road curvilinear field boundaries	Six shallow curvilinear ditches generally aligned east-west, representing the recutting of a single boundary.
Early Medieval/Dark Age to Medieval - 410 AD? to 1539 AD?			
58	MDO18007	St George's Road east-west linear field system	Parallel ditches aligned NW-SE defining strips of land 12 m wide. These ditches are undated but may be Saxon or medieval.
65	MDO18176	Red Cow Farm medieval linear ditch system	Two small parallel ditches on aligned roughly WNW-ESE were found in Trench 11 during the 2004 evaluation of Red Cow Farm by AC archaeology. These ditches were about 2m apart and the southern ditch ended in a squared terminal to the east. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from them.
Medieval to Post-medieval - 1066 AD to 1900 AD			
34	MDO20831	Came Home Farm: trackway	A possible trackway of medieval or later date is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs.
35	MDO18328	Medieval Ditches, Conygar Hill, Winterborne Came, Winterborne Herringston, Dorchester	A series of shallow linear ditches were found in the area north of Conygar Hill and south of Alington Avenue during the construction of the Dorchester By-pass in 1987 and excavated by Wessex Archaeology. These were all shallow U-profiled ditches, possibly the remains of medieval field boundary ditches. No dating evidence was recovered.
62	MDO18008	St George's Road NE-SW linear field system	A series of shallow ditches aligned NE-SW running up and down the slope during the excavations at St George's Road, in advance of the Dorchester By-pass construction. They probably represent part of the Fordington medieval and post-medieval open field system.
Post-medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD			
6	MDO20538	Stinsford: water meadows	An extensive system of post medieval water meadows to the north of the River Frome at Stinsford, visible as earthworks on aerial photographs.
7	MDO20535	St Georges Road: water meadows	Post medieval water meadows are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs to the south of the River Frome.

8	MDO20537	West Stafford: water meadows	A system of post medieval water meadows to the south of the River Frome at West Stafford, visible as earthworks on aerial photographs.
9	MDO20844	Frome Farm: chalk pits	Three pits are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and LIDAR. They are probably the sites of post medieval chalk pits.
11	MDO20842	Frome Hill: chalk pit	Site of a post medieval chalk pit visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs.
13	MDO20843	Frome Hill: chalk pit	Site of a post medieval chalk pit visible as an earthwork on aerial photographs.
33	MDO20829	Came Home Farm: chalk pits	A group of thirteen pits are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. They are probably the sites of post medieval chalk pits.
Post-medieval - 1880 AD to 1889 AD			
64	MDO19227	Clay pipe from allotments, St George's Road, Dorchester	A brown-stained clay pipe, shaped like an eagle's claw gripping the bowl of the pipe, a scaly design ending in very sharp talons, probably dating to the 1880s was found on the allotments on St George's Road, Fordington, Dorchester.
Modern 20th Century			
5	MDO19407	St George's Road refuse dump, Dorchester	A refuse dump for Dorchester along the banks of the River Frome to the north of Red Cow Farm was first used in May 1912. This refuse dump was on a former watermeadow and the refuse was deposited as a flood prevention measure. The tipping began from the road to the east and tipping progressed in a northwesterly direction until a dispute with the tenant farmer lead to the closure of the tip in November 1914. Excavations by ALD Archaeology between 2004-2006 indicated that the earliest material was in the east and gradually tipped northwestwards. The dump was very shallow to the west, confirming that the dump was finished earlier than intended. There is evidence for a small amount of burning of refuse. There was no evidence for scavenging, which meant that there was a comparatively high quantity of bottles from local retailers and china pot lids and bases are often found together. Most of the bottles and jars recovered are contemporary with the use of the dump, but with a small quantity of earlier material Pottery was not systematically collected, but included primarily late 19th/early 20 th century industrial whitewares, with a small quantity of local earthenwares. Some metal objects were also found, mainly enamelled pots and pans.
Unknown			
16	MDO2910	Rectangular features, West Stafford	Two large rectangular features recorded during installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985. Both measured around 2.8 b7 2.5 metres; they were not excavated.
19	MDO20951	MOUNT PLEASANT: possible extractive pits	Numerous irregular-shaped pit-like features are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs within and around Mount Pleasant henge enclosure, possibly natural in origin or the result of post-medieval extractive activity.
20	MDO20536	Mount Pleasant: hollow	A sub circular hollow of uncertain origin, is visible as low earthworks on LiDAR images to the north-east of Mount Pleasant henge.
28	MDO2907	Post holes, West Stafford	A group of possible post holes, recorded during installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985. The features were around 0.2 metres in diameter.
30	MDO2908	Rectangular feature, West Stafford	A rectangular feature recorded during installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985. The feature measured around 3 metres by 1 metre; it was not excavated.
31	MDO2909	Linear feature, West Stafford	A linear feature recorded during installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985. The feature, which may have been a ditch, was 1.5 metres wide and 0.35 metres deep in section.
32	MDO2906	Ditch, West Stafford	A ditch, described as a small gully, recorded during installation of a mains water supply pipe from Mount Pleasant to Alington Avenue in 1985. It was interpreted as a possible agricultural division.
57	MDO18011	St George's Road/Smoky Hole Lane earthworks	A series of low earthworks comprising a linear earthwork aligned NE-SW and a series of lynchets at right angles to it.

66	MDO18175	Red Cow Farm linear ditch system	A four undated ditches on varying orientations were found in Trench 2 during the 2004 evaluation of Red Cow Farm by AC archaeology. The ditches were all found together and although all on different alignments may be part of the same field system. These ditches may be part of the same field system and the Roman rectangular field system found at St George's Road, in 1987.
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Historic Maps and Documents

Map date	Type	Reference	Comments
1839	West Stafford Tithe map	T/WSF	In waste
1877	Fordington Tithe map	D1-LX/17/2	

Tithe apportionment:

Fordington

	Landowner	Occupier	Name & Description	State of cultivation
184	William Sturton	Himself	Part of Barn Close	Pasture

West Stafford

	Landowner	Occupier	Name & Description	State of cultivation
1	John Floyer Esq	Himself	Roads and wastes	-

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